A STIRRING DEBATE.

Sound Sense About the Requirements of the Pension Office.

In the House of Representatives, on Thursday last, the pension appropriation bill being under discussion in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Goff, of West Virginia, with a view to incoporating in the bill a provision by means of which the claims now pending before the Pension Department might be adjudicated at an early date, offered the following amendment: And provided further, That no proof shall hereafter be required entire in pending cases or those hereafter filed as to the physical condition of the soldier in whose behalf said application is unde at the time he was mustered into the service of the United States, and all claims heretofore rejected on that ground simil be reheard, and if the proof is

antishmory in other respects be granted. In support of his amondment, Mr. Goff said : Mr. Chairman the men in whose interest we legislate and discuss questions presented here to-day are rapidly growing out. They are fast pass-The widows of the dead sordiers of the army of the Union are growing weary of waiting for the fuffillment of the promises long since angue to them. Congress ime been, I may say, even lavish in its legislative promises. But in many par-Houlars it has been most dereliet in their faillment. Do you readize, Mr. Chairman, that over 300,000 minims are as yet pundinducted? These clatus were tiled in the music of those who for their country gave all they had to give-their lives. their health, and their strong manhood. These chains are thus unadjudicated although twenty years have classed since the time when these men

At this point Mr. Goff's attention was called careful examination, throw upon the applicant for to the fact that the Committee on Invalid Pen-Bions had already reported a bill of the same tenor as the amendment, but he very justly replied that the best way to secure this legislation was through an amendment to the pension appropriation bill rather than to take the chauces with a bill that was low down on the calendar, and if they were all agreed as to the equity of the proposed legislation there was no reason why it should not be enacted as he proposed. Resuming his argument, he said: AN ELOQUENT APPEAL.

For long, weary years, as I have said, the men intended to be benefited by this regislation have been Congress; they are entitled to your serious consideration to-day; they gathered from all sections; they neglected all professions; they gave up all occupations; they sacrificed homes; they deserted wives, children, all; and they murched under your banner of beauty in the path of duty down into the nws of death. And they did so not for a party, not

the honors of the buttles of the Union.

Why, Mr. Chairman, do you realize that the mothers of your then by soldiers, many, very even not short of crime that this state of affairs exlsts in this mind to-day. I know that many of you of legislation in favor of the soldier. And yet I evidence that is demanded from them. inuthers of the dead soldiers of the land are still asking in vain for the relief that has been proffered Why, sir, think what the country has gained; then pause and contemplate what they have just. They have been taught in the school of adversity. They are not amaquishted with grief. The children of their love were given to the cause

of country and at the cell of duty.

All over your land to-day, in this beautiful springtime, the grass is growing green over the graves of their loved add their lost. These mothers for whom I speak gave all that they could give for the cause of their country. They have suffered more than we can here depict in language, or can weigh. This very hour to them is full of bitter anguish known only to those who in the bitterness of grief are continually longing

" For the touch of a vanished hand, And the sound of a voice that is still."

WERE OUR SOLDIERS ABLE-BODIED? Now, Mr. Chairman, I claim that the men who marched with Grant, the grandest of grand sol-diers; that the men who marched with Sherman on his wonderful march to the sea; that the men who followed Phit Sheridan in the valley of the Shemmdonb-un Eden turned to a seething bell; that the men who followed the gallant young Cus-ter, who rode across the plains of the Old Domin-ion; that the men who followed the banner of that superb soldier, grand as his cause and true as his steel, Hancock; that the men who followed Garfield, our martyred and murdered President,

"The thread of whose renown The Fates to-day spin round and full, Out of their choicest and their whitest wool; " that the men who went with Fighting Joe Hooker were strong enough to seize the tiger of rebellion by the throat and strangle it in the jungles of the Witterness—that those men should not be told today that they are not and were not then strong. able-looded usen. They should not now be quired by living witnesses to prove that they then in that day performed well a duty that men could

only perform when strong men.
The men, Mr. Chairman, who fought in the armies of Lee and Jackson, brave leaders of brave men-men who lave given luster to the renown of the American soldier—those men, I say to-day should not be insulted by being told they were vanquished by weak, disabled men. It is not only an insult to the men who fought with Lee and Jackson, but it is also un insuit to the soldier of the army of the Union to say to him that the foe he contended with was not as brave, as gallant, and as generals as himself. I say that the time has come when we should have this legislation and be done with these continual appears for justice, all of which is conceded by each and every member of

The men in whose interest is intended this legisinton, which the honorable chairman of the Com-native on layard Pensions [Mr. Matson] says has been proffered, the men whom the gentleman from Arkansas Mr. Rogers says his committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back ray has also provided for; the men for whose benefit i have offered time amendment-and dear knows I am not auxious how it is done so that it is donethe men in whose interest this is proffered have made it possible for a Republic of over 50,000,000 people, strong in the affections of all its estizens, freemen who dread no master, fear no king, and kneed to mone but their God. [Great applause.]

MR. RANDALL OBJECTS. At the conclusion of Mr. Goff's remarks, Mr. Bandali (Dem.), of Pennsylvania, rose to a point of order, and the following colloquy en-

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order must be disposed of now. The Chair will hear the gentle-

Mr. RANDALL. The point of order is that the amendment is new legislation and not in the line of economy. It would involve greater expense. But my circl objects a to it is that it does not come with the approval of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the Committee on Pensions. A MENRIE. What difference does that make? Mr. KANDALL. I do not want to legislate in

that way. Mr. GOFF. A word only as to the objection that the anacoment is the same in substance as the bill reported by the Committee on Invaild Pensions or the Spicet Committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and back Pay. If the gentleman from sylvania will examine the two he will have no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that the provisions of the bill and of this amendment are it goes further than that. The amendment I have offered provides that men who were recognized as expande and able for duty at the time of the beginming of hostilities in 1861 and who were mustered into the service, whose names appear upon the muster-rolls—that those men shall be considered expuble of duty at the time their names were so

placed on the muster-rolls.

Now, sir, you and 1 in common with citizens enerally are estopped by our conduct and our acts. Why should not in this particular the rule of estoppel apply to the Government also? It is saideven the gentleman from Pennsylvania will not deny it-that what is intended to be accomplisshould be done. He will also admit, I think, we have a much better opportunity of securing this legislation in this appropriation bill than we will have by waiting to enact either one of the isolated provisions that have been alluded to. I hope the gent eman, unless he think- it absolutely essential.

Mr. RANDALL. I maist upon my point of order. There may possibly be merit in the proposition of the gentleman from West Virginia; but we are not sufficiently informed as to the amount of money

Mr. GOFF. Will the gentleman allow me to say right there that if it is right we should not haggle over the amount of money?

After some further debate as to whether Mr-Goff's amendment ought not to be qualified in some respects, Mr. Laird (Rep.), of Nebraska,

MR. LAIRD TAKES A HAND. I desire to ask the gentleman from Pennsylva-

mia [Mr. Randall] one question. Is he willing to add to this bill an amendment obligating the Government to pay to these soldiers the pensions which are honestly due them, by compelling the Govern-ment to recognize this state of facts: that where a man complains of an injury or a wound received in the service, and it is established by his army record that he served in the field three months or more during the late war, then the presumption shall be that he received the injury or wound in the line of duty? In support of such an amendment I desire to say that the operation of the presment I desire to say that the operation of the present pension laws which you are trying to enforce and which I desire to amend is such that the men who have hospital records receive their pensions, while the men who were wounded on our battlefields and did not go to hospitals are the men to whom pensions are denied under the recent system.

The Diamond I they claim to do. It will look like to-day, kept there year after year for no other purpose than to hauf and to overhaul, to adjust and to readjust, to examine and to re-examine; not finish.

Burlington, Vt.

which, taken in connection with that offered by the gentleman from West Virginia, will go far to correct the abuses of the system as now administered. Add after line 2s in section 2 the following: "Provided, That in all the cases now pending in the Pension Department, or that may hereafter arise, where the applicant for pension is shown to have served three months or more in the field and to have received an honorable discharge, all injurics sustained by him while in the service shall be presumed to have been received in the line of duty, unless the contrary be shown by proof, the burden of which shall be upon the Government. And when it shall be established by two or more crediwitnesses that ciaimant has suffered from such disability since his discharge, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of Pensions to grant such

Mr. Hammond (Dem.), of Georgia, insisted on the point of order, whereupon Mr. Wait else. (Rep.), of Connecticut, addressed the House as

MR. WAIT'S HARD HITS.

Mr. Chairman, the result which the pending amendment to the bill aims to accomplish is one which ought to receive the approval of every member of the House. If under the rules that control the action of the House the Chair should hold that the amendment is subject to a point of order, then I trust that the object sought to be effected by the same will be embraced in another bill which will receive the unanimous support of the members of this body without regard to party affiliations. The amendment in effect occiares that the United States Government, when it received a man into its military service during the late war and had him exined by surgeons who were selected by and acting as the agents of the Government, and these agents had decided that he was then a sound man, free from disease of every kind, and in all respects fit to discharge the duties of a soldier, now aims to set at naught its own action at the time of his enistment, and to compel him to go back twenty or more years and show what his physical condition was when he entered the public service. The existing laws or rules of the Pension Bureau,

moring the opinion of medical men based on it may be impossible for him to obtain, the fact that he was free from disease of every kind at the time of his enlistment. His family physician may be dead. Parties in whose employ he was or who were his early associates may also be dead, or removed to parts unknown or after so long an intervening time may retain no distinct recollection as to his physical condition when he entered the army twenty years prior. In that way a soldier when he presents his application to the Gov-ernment officials, asking them to give him a pension as a partial remuneration for loss of health resulting from the privations and exposures incident to life in a camp, or from confinement in a military prison, is coldly met with relusal on the ground that he cannot show affirmatively by the waiting for it, and it has come not. These soldiers testimony of medical men, commissioned officers of the army of the Union, these dead soldiers, are estimony of medical men, commissioned officers, freedom's martyrs. They are jewels in the crown | man when the Government by its agents examined of liberty; they are worthy of the attention of this | and necepted him. A rule more unjust in its ope-

ration could scarcely be devised.

A WORD FOR THE WIDOWS. But it is not the soldier alone who suffers great wrong from the effects of this rule of the Pension Bureau. The seldier dies and his widow and children, often left without means to feed and for a section; nor did they do it for a creed; for clothe them, call upon the Government to give men of all parties tasted of the dregs of the bitter | them the little aid which a pension may afford, cup, and soldiers of all sections and all creeds and their request for justice is met with the cold shared in the privations and the dangers and won | response, "Prove by the evidence which our rules mand that your husband or your father was free from every form of disease when he left his home to peril health and life for his country." many of them, are without pensious to-day? It is | would be difficult for the soldier to reach the proof required to enable him to obtain justice at the hands of the Government, it will surely be imposwill claim that there has been an immense amount | sible for the widow and the children to get the say, when you examine the reports of the Commis- sands of cases where the soldier, the widow, and favorably listened to and their applications for assistance unhesitatingly granted, they have been detarred by conditions and requirements with which it is impossible for them to comply. These arbitrary and oppressive rules and requirements should be removed by the proposed amendment or other legislation of like character.

Mr. Chariman, I am often in receipt of commu nications from soldiers who are suffering under diseases which are the fruits of camp life, or from the widows of soldiers who have died from such diseases, telling me that they have failed to obtain justice solely from their fambility to show the physical condition of the soldier at the time of his usument. The witnesses to whom they would dead, or have lost recollection in regard to the case. Let us now, Mr. Chairman, legislate in a way which will do partial justice at least to the brave men who periled life and sacrificed health to save this Union, and not only to them if they are living but to their widows and children if they

Mr. Warner (Dem.), of Ohio, insisted that the bill already reported from the Committee on Pensions, Bounty and Back Pay fully covered the ground, and offered it as a substitute for Mr. Goff's amendment, but Mr. Hammond again made the point that it was not in order, a single regiment was ordered to make such a and was sustained by the Chair, whereupon | charge. It is a mystery to me why he thinks Mr. Belford (Rep.), of Colorado, said:

MR. BELFORD'S COMMON SENSE. Now gentlemen have had their say and I propose to have mine for a moment. I am speaking to the point of order, and the question is, is this amenduntil you look at the bid itself? What is this bill about except invalid pensions? That is what the bill itself contemplates. That is its subject-matter. you ought to presume at least that he had some connection with that family and is germane [laughter and that he is cutified to go in at the family board

and the family table. The gent eman talks about expending the money of the people. Does the mere presumption that a go ahead!" which we did, not at an arms aport, man who was a healthy man when he was mustered into the army mercase your public expendi tures? Does your Treasury rest upon a miscrable presumption? How does it increase the appropriations? In what manner does it increase them? In what measure, I ask, are they increased? This amendment says that every widow who lost her husband in the army shall not be required to prove that he was a sound man when he entered the service if he had been examined and accepted by a board of officers appointed by the Government of the United States to determine whether he was able o serve or not. You know that he could not have

of any kind. If he had a crooked tooth, that would have rejected him before the examiners. Do you not know that to be a fact, and why? Upon the old theory that he had to hate off the end of the cartridge, although in 1860 you know and I know that no man could bite off the end of a brass cartridge, [Laughter.] And you, understanding that fact, and not withstanding the close and care-ful exactionation which was made by the officers of the United States, you say that the soldier's widow shall prove to this Government that he was a sound man when he went in! And you know how rigidly they were examined, stripped, inspected, their mouths opened like the slaves sold in the markets at Constantinople, and if sound they were mustered into the army. But now under a mistaken policy of economy the gentleman expects, but it is a vain (Expectation, to ride into the Presidential office, [Laughter.] In that expectation he refuses us, the orny of this Republican House, whose virtue he has kinelly undertaken to protect, the right to incorporate in this bill a just and wise and proper

amendment. MR. BRUMM RENEWS THE FIGHT.

law and did not retrench expenditures, and therefore was not germane to the bill. Later in the session, however, Mr. Brumm (Rep.), of Pennsylvania, moved to amend by adding the following to the bill:

Provided. That upon the question of the phys condition of the soldier at the time of muster into service the common-law rule of evidence as to burden of proof shall be adopted in the adjudica-

The law as it now stands provides that soldiers who have received certain wounds or incurred cer-tain disabilities in the line of duty shall be entitled to pensions. This provision, as the Commissioner of Pensions thinks, makes it incumbent on him to require the soldier to prove affirmatively that the disability was received in the line of duty, and as a part of such proof to show that he had no disability when he was mustered in. Under the present construction of the law the soldier is compelled to prove a negative. I do not wish to criticise the action or opinion of the Commissioner of Pensions, but in my jud, ment this view of the law is not The Commissioner, I submit, would have the right to presume that the soldier was sound in body and mind when he enlisted. He would have the right to presume, as all the rules of evidence presume that the officers of the law per formed their duty when they enlisted the soldier The Commissioner would have the right to presume that when the soldier was mustered into the service he had all the qualifications necessary to entitle him to be mustered in. Among these are certain physical qualifications as to stature, health, The presumption should be that the soldier

had all these qualifications.
But the Commissioner of Pensions seems to think it became necessary to establish affirmatively again the fact that he had all these disabilities. Hence as to the first branch of the point of order, I say it is ers, supported by artillery, we opened our lines without foundation. It changes no existing law, but is simply declaratory of what the present law is, and it enables the Commissioner of Pensions to do as I believe Congress wishes him to do and as many in particular, as he passed through compeople demands he shall do. And in that regard it is certainly not liable to the point of order.

THE COMMON-LAW DOCTRINE. As to the second proposition, that is, to the question of retrenchment of expenditures, I have this to say: Why, Mr. Chairman, the question as to whether these soldiers are cut tled to their pension or not is matter of evidence, and the more you cloud the testimony the more you complicate the machinery by which you arrive at the proper facts, the more you expend the money of the people. Simplify your work, use the common law doc-trine; use the same rule of law and of evidence

I will state the amendment which I propose, and | ing their work, but extending it from year to year, thus making your expenditure so much larger than it ought to be. My amendment means that you shall simplify the wo k of the Pension Office; that you shall say what shall be evidence and what shall not; what is their business and what is not. This is, in other words, to tell them at the Pension Office, you have no business to spend the money of the country in having men attempt to prove a negative. This tells them they must rest satisfied with the record evidence, and to presume all men are honest-that the men who went into the service and suffered disability were honest.

Here Mr. Brumm's time expired, and the following colloquy ensued: Mr. RANDALL, You might do a great injury pension as the proof shows the applicant entitled

to the pensioner by establishing a new rule of evidence. As I have said, it is now ex parte.

Mr. BRUMM. Oh, no. If you establish that rule it shifts the burden of poor upon the Government, and that is the effect of this and nothing

SECRETARY TELLER'S OPINION. Mr. CURTIN (Dem.), Pa. I understand that the Secretary of the Interior is prepared to rule now that the prima facie is with the soldier who was regularly examined and pronounced fit to perform service, and the burden of proof is thrown upon the Government to prove that he was not fit and that his muster was a fraud.

Mr. BRUMM. If that be the case there can be no harm in the adoption of this amendment.

Mr. White (Rep.), of Kentucky, then offered the following: And provided further, That the mother of a deceased soldier shall be assumed to have been dependent upon her son within the meaning of the pension laws, if at the date of his death or at any time subsequent thereto she had no other adequate

ment also out of order.

means of support. In support of his amendment, he said:

Under the present ruling the mother is compelled to prove that she was dependent on her son. Now, is very hard for the mother to prove at this time that she was dependent upon a son who was just entering manhood and went into the army and lost his life; but it is easy for every one of us to see that she was soon to be dependent upon him, and that she would have been dependent upon him more or less from that time to this. But no mother, however much she may be suffering now, if she cannot prove that she was dependent upon her son at the time he enlisted, can get a pension for that son's services, although he may have lost his life in the service. It strikes me that there is here so clear a case of injustice that we should not higgle

Mr. RANDALL. As the gentleman from Kentucky has spoken on the merits of his proposition, I yield for a moment to the gentleman from Ohio Mr. Warner] to make a statement, that it may be seen that in making the point of order I am not opposed to the proposition, but I make it because it has no place in this bill.

Mr. WARNER (Ohio). I wish to state that the

bill I have heretofore referred to cures the defect of which the gentleman from Kentucky complains. Mr. WHITE (Ky). But does the gentleman think M. WARNER (Ohio). I hope we will on Mon-The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from

Pennsylvania insist on the point of order?

Mr. RANDALL, I do, for the reason I have The CHAIRMAN. The Chair, on the grounds already stated in connection with the amendment proposed by the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. Goff], sustains the point of order,

And so the several attempts to incorporate in the pension appropriation bill some positive legislation to prevent further delay in the adjudication of the claims pending before the Pension Office, and thus make sure of action by both houses of Congress during the present session, came to naught. Nevertheless, we feel the child of the soldier have claims that should be | certain that the effect of this debate upon the future action of the House will be decidedly with the enemy's cavalry under Ashby, near Harsalutary, for the fact has now been clearly developed that it is not the illiberality of the pension laws that are the cause of the delay in ent on duty; that the nature of the ground on the Pension Office, but the unjust and illiberal interpretation which the latter has placed upon them. Representative Curtin's statement that the Secretary of the Interior is ready to rule that upon the Government rests the burden of proof that the applicant for pension was not sound at the date of muster, is a plain admission that this is not a question of law, but look for aid have gone to parts unknown, or are simply one of administration. This ruling could and should have been adopted long ago.

That Charge at Cold Harbor.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In THE TRIBUNE of the 20th ult. I notice an account of a charge of the 3d division of the 6th corps at Cold Harbor, Va., on the 1st of June, 1864, written by P. Robertson, of the 10th New York, in which he says the 106th was the only regiment that charged after we had taken the rebel works, and that it is a mystery to him why so, else the 106th New York was not with the 1st brigade at the time. Now, Mr. Editor, with your permission, I will give a short sketch of the charge, as I recollect it, for the benefit of | pension of \$8 a month. the balance of the brigade.

We charged through the belt of woods, which had been set on fire and was still burning; through the plowed field; through the swampsome of our men nearly sticking fast-till we reached the works about a hundred yards up from the swamp along the edge of the woods. We mounted the works and gave a few yells, when our officers commanded us to "charge on! but at a charge bayonets, and captured a great many rebels who had dodged behind trees. We charged up the bill, not down in the swamp, until we came to an open field, or plain, where we halted. The report then was that our flanks were not supported, as the balls came from our

right and left. We did not go back to the rebel works till the next morning. Now, I was always under the impression that our whole brigade was there,-the 106th New York on our right and the 57th P. V. on our left,-and if the 106th went back that night they went before we did, and they ought to have seen us when we came back the next morning. Our colonel-Col. Schall, of the 87thcommanded the brigade then, and was wounded while we were going back, but did not leave

us till he had the line formed. When we came to a halt at the edge of the field, I and two more of my company wentsout a couple of bundred yards on top of the rise, where the rebels had thrown up works for their artillery, and in one of the holes sat a rebel. We wanted to capture him, but found he was dead. Just then we saw a squad of rebels coming up the hill, yelling and waving their flag, and behind them came a line of rebels, who opened fire on us and forced us to return to our command. It was then getting dark, and I was out as skirmishers in front of our regiment in the field, and was relieved about 10 or 11 o'clock At the conclusion of Mr. Belford's remarks, | that night, and our regiment was still at the

YORK, PA. Co. B, 87th P. V. L.

The 24th and 25th Corps.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In your last number J. G. Storey, of Boston, states that he fails to find any notice in war books of the 10th and 18th corps after reorganization. I was a member of company H, 14sth Against this amendment also Mr. Randall Sent to New York in November, 1864, to give W. W. Potter, examining surgeon, says: "Has Butler. Soon after our return to Fort Harrison-or, rather, Fort Burnham-the 10th and 18th corps of mixed white and colored troops, forming the 24th (colored) and 25th corps, both under E. O. C. Ord, relieved the 5th corps at Gravelly Run, that they might accompany Sheridan to Five Forks, near the last of March. 1865. April 2, 1865, our division (Foster's) passed through the lines towards the city and captured Fort Gregg, and, as I supposed, Fort Baldwin, close by, although "A Guide to the Fortifications, &c., Around Petersburg, published by the Proprietor of Jarrett's Hotel Petersburg, Va.," gives the credit to a brigade each of the 6th and 24th corps. I have seen the 24th and 25th corps mentioned in a number of books. I know that during the chase of R. E. Lee we lost many men in checking his army at Rice's Station, six miles west of Burkesville Junction, and also that those corps marched very fast the 8th of April and nearly all of that night to support Sheridan at Appomattox Court-House the morning of the 9th of April, 1865. I well remember that as the cavalry were being driven back by Lee's skirmishman in particular, as he passed through company H, turned in his saddle and shook his fist savagely at the Johnnies, and saying, with grating teeth: "Now, --- you, you've got some-thing besides horses to drive." General Chamberlain, of Maine, gives E. O. C. Ord the credit of being in command at the surrender until Grant's (or Meade's) arrival on the ground. E. M. TINKHAM, Co. H, 148th N. Y. Vols. SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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WHERE THE FAULT LIES. Cases Showing Why Claims to Pension Are Not

Allowed. In another column of the present issue we print an article on." The Pension Tragedy," in the course of which it is shown that the existing delay in the adjudication of pension claims is largely due to the unreasonable requirements of the Pension Office as to evidence and the application of narrow and technical rules, for which there is no warrant in law or equity, and in order that our readers may see for themselves that these requirements and rulings are such as we have pronounced them, we print herewith a number of reports from the House Committee on Invalid Pensions on private pension bills, showing the grounds on which the applications of the claimants were rejected by the Pension Office, and the reasons why, in the opinion of the committee, they are, nevertheless, entitled to pension. It will be obvious, we think, to anyone who carefully reads these reports, that the evidence which satisfied the be allowed, would have abundantly justified the Pension Office in allowing them in the first instance, and that the claimants ought Nevertheless the Speaker ruled this amendnever to have been forced to apply to Congress

Here is the report [No. 773] submitted March 11, 1884, by Representative Bagley, of New York, to accompany bill [H. R. 5364] to pension William H. Whitcomb:

The petitioner was enrolled on the 1st day of October, 1851, in company M, 5th regiment New York cavalry volunteers, and was honorably discharged at Winchester, Va., on the 19th day of

In a charge upon the enemy at Harrisonburg, Va., his horse was shot under him and another horse fell upon him, seriously injuring his side, from the effects of which he has never recovered. Also at Parker's store, in Virginia, he received a gunshot wound in the neck on the left side, and again in an engagement at Buckland Mills, in a charge, he was caught and thrown between two trees and his right knee severely injured. His claim was rejected by the Pension Office on the ground of no disability since discharge.

O. W. Armstrong, M. D., late surgeon 5th New York cavary, testilies as follows: "That the claim-ant, on or about October 19, 1863, at Buckland Mills, Va., while in line of duty, and during an engage-

ment with the enemy, was injured in his right knee by being forced, while mounted, against a tree, receiving a contused wound of said knee; that on the 5th day of May, 1864, during the battle of the Wilderness, he received a gunshot wound in the left side of the neck, passing through the skin and sterno-mastoid muscle; was treated by me for the said wound, being dressed as required, but not sent to hospital."

Justice Travis and William H. Bogardus, comrades, testify that they were members of company M, 5th New York cavalry, from the fall of 1861 to December, 1863; that William H. Whiteomb was a member of said company during all this time; that they knew of said Whitcomb being wounded by being shot in the neck while in the line of duty, at Parker's store, in Virginia, and of his being injured by a horse falling on him in a charge on the enemy at Harrisonburg, Va , on the 6th day of May, 1862 and of his being injured in the right leg and knee at Buckland Mills, Va., in the summer of 1863, by being caught and thrown against two trees, in a charge. And the said Travis says that he was present and attended the soldier in the hospital at Winchester, Va.

Amos H. White testifies that he was first lieutenant and captain of company D; major, lieutenantcolonel, and colonel of the 5th regiment New York volunteer cavalry, and knows the petitioner, who was a member of company M, of same regiment. That on the 6th May, 1862, the soldier was present with his company on duty; that in an engagement risonburg, Va., his horse was shot, falling on and injuring him. That in an engagement at Buckland Mills, Va., October 19, 1863, said soldier was preswhich the battle was fought was rough and partly wooded; that in one of the many charges made on the enemy, said soldier was injured. That on the 5th day of May, 1864, at the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, near Parker's store, Whitcomb was present and in command of his company during the battle, which raged all day, and was shot in the neck. The colonel also says that this soldier repeatedly distinguished himself, and for meritorious service he was promoted to second lieutenant of company K, May 2, 1-64, and first lieutenant of company L, November 14, 1864. During the entire war he served with credit to himself and honor to J. Jewell, M. D., examining surgeon, says: "In

my opinion the said William H. Whitcomb is total, third grade, incapacitated for obtaining his subsistance by manual labor. Judging from his pres-ent condition, and from the evidence before me, it is my belief that the disability did originate in the service, in the line of duty. The disability is permanent,"
The splendid record of this soldier, shown by the

commendation of his superior officer, the many wounds he received, and the faithfulness of his service, recommend him to your committee as worthy of a pension, and they therefore ask the passage of the accompanying bill, with the follow-ing amendment: After the worl "cavalry," in line seven, add the following: "and pay him s

It will be noted that in this case the applicant was rejected, notwithstanding the report of the examining surgeon was in the claimant's

A WIDOW'S CLAIM.

Another illustration of how the weight of evidence in claimant's favor was disregarded by the Pension Office and the application rejected on a trivial technicality is afforded by the report [No. 713] made by Representative Holmes, of lowa, on the bill [5686] for the relief of Sarah J. Chipman, widow of Charles B. Chipman, deceased:

Charles B. Chipman, deceased, claimant's husband, enlisted on the 6th day of May, 1861, in company 1, 3d regiment Wisconsin volunteers. He reenlisted in company I, 3d regiment Veteran Reserve Corps, and was afterwards transferred to company C, 9th Veteran Reserve Corps. He was mustered out of the service August 24, 1866, having been in continuous service more than five years. The record and evidence shows that up to the time of his enlistment, and for a considerable time afterward, he was a sound man. While in the service the soldier, on or about May 1, 1864, contracted amaurosis (paralysis of the retina) in both eyes, which almost entirely destroyed the sight. About August 1, 1873, in the city of Washington, D. C. the soldier fell, as would appear, from inability to see his way, struck his head upon the sidewalk or curbstone, was found lying there delirious. This fall, as all the evidence shows, caused insanity, and the soldier was shortly after taken to the Government hospital for the Insane, in the District of

Columbia, where he died June 25, 1875, of epileptic convulsion and organic disease of the brain. The soldier had been pensioned from August 24, 1866, at \$8 per month, on account of amaurosis of both eyes. This pension was increased to \$20 on May 28, 1870, and to \$24 by act of June 8, 1872, and

December, 1874, to \$50 a month. The application for pension by this claimant was rejected by the Pension Office on the ground that the malady of which the soldier died was not con detailed with some others of my company to go tracted in the service, and that it was not the direct result of any disease so contracted. Your committee hardly think it possible to read the evidence in this case without coming to the conclusion that this sol-dier's disability and death were the result of the the Speaker ruled Mr. Goff's amendment out of edge of the field and stayed there till the next which he stumbled over a stone in his way, seriously which he stumbled over a stone in his way, seriously injured his head, became insane, and died as stated. The examining surgeon who investigated his case, repored as follows:

W. D. Stewart, M. D., says: "This man's vision was good from the time he entered the service in May 6, 1861, to June, 1864, over three years. At this time he observed that his eyesight was failing. The history and symptoms as stated by him is that of subacute inflammation of the retina of both eyes, resulting in complete and probable incurable amau

not the same. This amendment may accomplish one of the objects intended to be accomplished by one of the objects intended to be accomplished by as follows in support of his proposition:

Against this amendment are Against this amendment are being the following support of his proposition:

Against this amendment are and Mr. Brumm spoke them "an honest election," by General B. F. amaurosis of both eyes; vision nearly destroyed: Butler. Soon after our return to Fort Harrican be discerned. In walking upon the street a personal attendant is required, and for many other purposes assistance is needed. Disability equiva-lent to the loss of a foot and hand and permanent in its present degree." Total, second grade. J. O. Stanton, examining surgeon, says: "This man is suffering from partial loss of sight of both eyes, probably from amaurosis. The eyes are in-flamed slightly; pupils dilated and insensible to the light; can distinguish objects with great diffi-culty. He is incapacitated for performing manual labor."

As will be seen, the loss of sight caused the fall which resulted in insanity and finally the death of the soldier. It seems hardly necessary to assert that but for the loss of sight, as the physicians say, while in the service in the line of duty, the soldier would have lived many years longer, and would probably never have sustained the injuries that he received in the fall, and which in its result occasioned his death. The fact that the Government granted him a pension, and increased it from time to time under the rigid rules of the Pension Office, would be an estoppel on the claim that the Govern-ment was not liable, and that his injuries did not arise in the service while in the line of duty. hardly think it worth while to be technical with the soldier who first served with credit five years in the most trying time of our history, and whose widow now asks the small petition at the hands of The claim for the minor child, Ulysses Chipmen,

is perhaps not worth ocnsidering at this time, un-less arrears be granted. The minor would only be entitled to \$6 or \$8, without the passage of this act, at most, being now nearly sixteen years of age. Your committee therefore recommend the adoption and passage of the accompany substituted What a happy contrast the treatment which this claim received at the hands of the committee offers to that which it received in the Pension Office! The latter's determination to

of our history" deprived his widow of the arrears of pension that justly belonged to her! ONE CONTINUOUS DISABILITY. And here is a case which still more clearly shows the disposition of the Pension Office to | having forgotten all about it-and heard Gen. take advantage of technicalities to justify its Dan. McCook, riding up to Kennedy, demand

ative Houk, of Tennessee, to accompany bill [H. R. 5176] to pension James I. Dail: Claimant filed his application for pension April 2, 1871, which was rejected February 2, 1881. The proof is clear and strong that he was and is greatly disabled. His mittary record shows that he was

discharged from the service on account of injuries received near McMinnville, Tenn., by his horse falling on him when engaged in a raid after John Morgan's cavalry, in May, 1863. A large number of officers and comrades testify as to his injuries. Medical officers of the army and citizen physicians give the same evidence. It would incumber this report to attempt to set out anything more than the substantial effect and logical and legal conclusions to be drawn from the claborate testimony.
It shows that after receiving injuries as aforesaid,

his wounds and bruises so affected him that a large abscess or carbuncle formed on the right side of lower body and right thigh, by reason of which, as already stated, he was honorably discharged from the military service. A long chain of both professional and lay testimony shows that from these original injuries were developed pites, fistura and hemorrhoids, Official medical examination shows him to be wholly disabled, or virtually so, from these identi-

cal causes. A large number of skillful and reputcommittee that the claims in question ought to able physicians bear positive testimony to his disabled constitution, and assign the same causes. And still his claim "was rejected on the ground of no record of alleged disability," and that "the records show that he was discharged for a different disability from that alleged, and mability to furnish medical testimony showing the existence of alleged disability." Such is the record of rejec-tion. This conclusion must have been arrived at by the naked assumption that the abscess and carbuncle resulting from the injuries received by his horse falling with and upon him were in no way connected with and superinducive of the other disabilities mentioned. Yet the proof shows that they existed, the one right after the other, coupling themselves together so as to form one contin uous disability, and originating in the same cause. He is certainly shown to have been disabled in the service of the United States. Your committee are clearly convinced that claimant was injured and disabled while in the line of his duty; that he is entitled to a pension; and therefore report back bill H, R, 5176 with a single amendment, inserting the words "first lieutenant and " before the word "quartermaster," and recommend that the same do pass.

It is these "naked assumptions," contrary to the logical and natural conclusions that should follow from an impartial examination of the evidence, that are the cause of the rejection by the Pension Office of so many meritorious claims.

ANOTHER WIDOW'S CLAIM. Another report [No. 862] made by Repre-

sentative Houck to accompany the bill [H. R., 5172) to pension Mary L. Wells, the widow of George W. Wells, is to the point. It says: It appears from the record filed in the Pension Office that George W. Wells, company I, 1st Tennessee infantry volunteers, made application for pension during his lifetime, which application and the proof to sustain it were very informally, inartificially, and imperfectly prepared. This application was rejected. On October 5, 1875, the soldier died. Afterwards the widow, Mary L. Wells, renewed the application in behalf of herself and certain minor children. This application was also wanting in professional skill and legal application and force of statement, and was likewise

rejected, but the reason therefor doet not appear in the record, except from the letter of notification that it was "rejected on the ground that the disease of which the soldier died was not the result of his military service." In answer to this ground of objection we collate the following testimony: The captain and first lieutenant of his company testify that he had the measles at Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky, in Octuber much more than a full regiment. Col. tober, 1861; and that in February, 1862, at Cumberland Ford, Kentucky, he was attacked with jaun dice and sent to a private house to be treated. Dr. R. P. Eaton testifies that he treated the soldier after discharge for jaundice, said to have been contracted in the military service; that he saw him frequently from discharge until death, and believes his death was caused by the disease he had at the time of his discharge; that he not only had jaundice but diarrhea, resulting from diseased liver and lungs; that he continued to prescribe for him up to the serious illness which resulted in his death; and that he is convinced that the soldier's death resulted from these organic troubles, originating in the service, he having no other disease. Dr. J. J. Harrison and Dr.

men and skilled physicians. The proof is conclusive the soldier was sound when he entered the service. Considering the circumstances and connecting the facts tending to establish the disease and its origin in the service, there can scarcely be any doubt-certainly not of such a reasonable character as to authorize the rejection of this claim—there is, in fact, no doubt—that the soldier died from disease contracted in the military service of the United States while in line of duty.

T. H. Murray substantially corroborate the evi-

dence of Dr. Eaton. These are reputable gentle-

Your committee, therefore, report back bill H. R. 5172 with amendments, and recommend that the same do pass. EVIDENCE THAT SHOULD CONVINCE ANYBODY. And here is a case in which the committee,

notwithstanding the rejection of the claim by the Pension Office, pronounce the evidence of injury "complete." The report [No. 871] of Representative Bagley, accompanying the bill [H. R. 3728] to pension Charles P. Mahan, says: Claimant enlisted August 30, 1862, and served as private in company C, 146th regiment, New York volunteers, until July 16, 1865, when he was honorably discharged.

He filed application for pension April 3, 1879, alleging that he was injured on the 13th of May, 1864, at Chancellorsville, by a stampede of horses, being knocked down and trampled upon, bruising his legs; afterward a bunch appeared upon the leg. and this continued to increase until removed by surgeon on the 25th day of November, 1878, weighing ten pounds.

Jerome Seance, a comrade of claimant, knew him in the service; was present when the stampede occurred May 13, 1884; did not see the injury inflicted, but saw claimant immediately afterward; he complained then of injury; said he was trampled upon; camped with claimant; saw his leg, it was inflamed and swollen. Comrades Goodfellow and Contuntle knew claimant in service; knew he was injured at stampede; did not see injury in-flicted, heard of it within a day or two, and knew generally that injury was to thigh, and of the char-Several neighbors of claimant, residing in the

same village with him, knew him from time of his return from the war up to the time the tumor was removed from the thigh in November, 1878; saw nim very frequently; knew he was lame when he returned; heard him say it was caused by injury returned: received in a stampede at Chancellorsville in May, 1864, and knew he was disabled from performing manual labor. Colonel Brown, of the 57th regiment, New York, esides in the same village with claimant; known him since his discharge; knew of his lameness and its continuance up to the time of surgical

heard claimant describe injury; knew that by reason of injury claimant was disabled from perorming manual service. All the witnesses unite in saying that claimant is respectable, worthy, and Upon this evidence and personal examination of claimant, the examining surgeon, on the 11th day of August, 1880, reported that, in his opinion, the claimant was permanently incapacitated for man-ual labor, and that the disability was permanent.

operation; his father was one of the operators;

April 8, 1882, the case was referred by Pension Department as follows, viz:
"Respectfully referred to W. R. Wood, medical referee, with the request that he state whether, in his opinion, the tumor resulted from the alleged injury, and, if not, whether claimant has been disabled since discharge by reason of said injury or results, the origin of which are not definitely

J. W. MINER." To which the following reply was made to Judge Walker: "Respectfully returned to Judge Walker. If it is shown to your satisfaction that claimant received an injury in the location of the tumor on right leg, we will have to admit it (the tumor) as the result of

said injury. W. R. Wood, "April 18, 1882. Med. R. The claim was rejected by the Department ruary 17, 1883, in the following language: "Rejected, because claimant cannot prove that the njury or tumor was caused while in the service.' Your committee are of the opinion that the evidence of injury is complete. The claimant himself is a worthy and truthful man; the comrades have no interest, and, although they did not see the injury inflicted, they were present, and establish the fact that the stampede did occur; they heard the claimant describe the injury immediately after it occurred. One of them saw the limb; it was inflamed and swollen. The neighbors describe the appearance after his return. The character of the injury, accompanied as it was with results, after a lapse of fourteen years, repels the idea of the claim being a subterfuge or pretense. Wherefore we report favorably, and recommend the passage of

It is clear from this presentment, we submit, that the failure of the Pension Office to allow meritorious claims is in many cases not because of any lack of evidence, but the result of the narrow and illiberal interpretation which it puts upon the pension laws.

A Soldier Who Obeyed Orders. To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I wish to relate a little incident of the march of the 22d Indiana infantry to Rome, Ga. It was the intention of General Jeff. C. Davis to surprise the rebels st. and at that point, and orders were given to mae. ckly as possible. The boys, however, wou ersist in varying the monotony of the trans by an occasional shot at a squirrel, and one of them -a strapping big fellow of company D, by the name of Benjamin Kennedy, and as brave a lad as ever shouldered a gun-was caught in the act. As a punishment his gun was taken away from him, and he was given a big fence-rail to be "technical with the soldier who first served with credit five years in the most trying time carry in its stead. This, I think, occurred about nine miles from Rome. Well, the next thing I remember is that in the midst of the fight at Rome, in the afternoon, I saw Kennedy in the front line of battle still carrying that rail-the colonel in the general excitement

ter as well as he could, whereupon the general told him to drop the rail and pick up a gun. which he did. After the battle the general rode over our way, and, seeing Kennedy, pronounced him a soldier after his own heart. We lost both our colonel and major in that battle A. C. KANARD.

WHEATLAND, DAK. The Last Word About the First Shot.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

May I say the last word in regard to the first shot at Gettysburg? The 1st division of cavairy (General Ruford commanding) were the first troops at Gettysburg. They reached there late in the afternoon of June 30, coming in on the Emmittsburgh pike, Colonel Gamble's brigade (the 1st) in advance. The regiments in this brigade were the 8th Illinois, 8th New York, and part of the 3d Indiana and 12th Illinois. The 5th New York was in advance of the brigade and met the enemy just coming into the town near the seminary. The enemy fell back without firing, and we encamped some little distance beyond the seminary, on the Chambersburg road, and sent out a reply to their inquiries. picket, the pickets from my regiment being on either side of the road with the advance post in the morning of July I were Albert S. Wetmore and George Sholes. When the enemy advanced Wetmore fired three shots in rapid succession from his Spencer, and these were the very first shots fired at this famous battle.

WALTER B. NORTON, 1st Sergt., Co. D, Sth N. Y. Cav. NORWICH, N. Y.

Give Us a Song, the Soldler Said.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: On the return of the 2d division of the 12th army corps to Bolivar Heights from a reconnaissance up the Shenandoah Valley, in December, 1862, we cantped one evening at Charleston, W. Va., where old John Brown was tried and executed. It snowed nearly all night and the weather was bitter cold, and in the moraing when the boys took up the march they April, 1865," Appraved July 13, 1866. were all mad. So, as we entered Charleston the 1st brigade struck up the grand old song, "John than the 2d brigade took up the song, and after it the 3d brigade, and finally the whole division. Considering the circumstances, it

GRANADA BAR, MASS. 137th N. Y. Vols. Colonel Raynor, not Sinck, in Command.

A. H. BEECHER,

listened.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: You are in error in stating that Colonel James R. Slack commanded the 1d brigade, 3d division of the 13th corps, on the Red River expedition. Colonel Slack, with the 47th Indiana, was at home on veteran furlough at the time, and the brigade was led by Coronel W. H. Raynor, of the 56th Ohio, who afterwards commanded the division when General Cameron succeeded General Ransom in comnumber much more than a full regiment. Col. check will be sent to the post-office address last Raynor's present address is 32 Arlington street, Cleveland, Ohio. SUBSCRIBER

in error in this matter.-Ep. THE QUESTION SQUAD.

It appears that the official reports are also

A Glance at the Contents of The Tribune's Mail Bags. Comrade Lester W. Murdock, company E, 121st New York volunteers, Hartwick, N. Y., writes us that he has in his possession a testament which he picked up on the Wilderness battlefield, May 3, 1863. On the fly-leaf is written "John Brandriff, Co. B, 16th N. J. Reg't, 1st brigade, 1st division, 6th army corps," and the names of Emma A. Johnson, Ella St. John, and Clara Corwins are written in the book. It has a red-morocco cover with tuck

the above-mentioned parties upon application. Comrade P. Zinn, company F, 43d O. V. I., Butler, Ind., writes us that he still possesses the U. S. blanket which he drew at Camp Chase, Ohio, in October, 1861, and that it is in very good condition, barring one or two small holes. He would be glad to hear from some of the comrades of his old regiment. Comrade David A. Davis, company G. 81st New York, Coffeyville, Kan., who was wounded in the leg at the battle of Fair Oaks, wants some comrade of his regiment to write up the part it took in

Comrade Daniel Griffin, company F. 66th O. V. , Hartford, Kan., wants some comrade to give a brief sketch of his regiment in THE TRIBUNE. Comrade Griffin was a prisoner for six months. Comrade Joseph Henson, company K, 6th U.S. cavalry, Ravenna, Ohio, writes that he was one of the unlucky prisoners who were forced to march rom Lynchburg to Danville, in the summer of

Comrade William H. Kramer, sergeant, company K, 55th O. V., Upper Sandusky, Ohio, wants ne comrade to write up the achievements of the 20th corps. Of the 132 men who enlisted in Comafterwards. The company numbered sixty-four

Comrade John R. Mills, Valparaiso, Ind., writes that he has a collection of 150 old war songs, and

says that if he receives enough orders from his old comrades he will publish them in book form. Comrade Theo. Eads, company C, 51st Illinois infantry volunteers. Corning, lows, would like to know the whereabouts of the party (his name he does not know) belonging to the 3d Kentucky rolunteer infantry who messed with him in Andersonville prison. Comrade Eads says: "He will remember that I went out for wood on one occasion and the quartermaster's wife gave me a haversack full, which the guard took from me, but at night dropped fuside the dead-line where I could get it. The same buty also give me a sick of flour the day we left Andersonville. I would like to know the present address of the quartermaster at

Andersonville in 1864, '65,' Comrade J. J. Wood, Dunkirk, Ohio, writes us that he has in his possession the veteran discharge certificate of Sylvanus Beck, of Captain M. ft. Kidd's 14th Indiana battery, dated Memphis, Tenn., March 21, 1864, and would like to know what became of that comrade.

Comrade Israel Row, Longmont, Colo., would like to get one of the photographs of the 19th sary. Iowa that were taken in New Orleans, before they G. drew their clothing, after their return from Tyler

Mrs. S. F. Proctor, Plymouth, Mass., writes that she learns from Mr. Seth W. Paty, company E. 29th Massachusetts, of that place, that the spy who was hung at Knoxville, Tenn., in 1863, was George E. Dodge, 8th Texas cavalry. The rope broke, and the second time. Comrade Paty was an eye-witness of the execution. Comrade Edward Black, company A, 74th Illinois, Jessup, Iowa, writes, on other hand, that the spy's name was E. H. Dodd; that he was hung in June, 1864, and that the only papers found on him were private letters from people in Kentucky to their friends in the

STILL THEY COME. The Latest Reports From The Tribune's Recruiting Officers.

Inclosed please find the money to renew my subscription. I consider THE TRIBUNE the best paper published. I am a Democrat, but think that Senator Logan will best represent the soldier's rights next term.-Caleb Aber, Vienna, N. J. Please find inclosed \$14 for fourteen new sub-

copy of your paper the other day, and liked it so much that I thought I would get up a club.-James E. Curry, Stockton, Cal. Inclosed you will find post-office order for \$3 for three more new sub-criptions to your valuable paper, which I would not be without for \$5 a year.

—G. B. Corwin, Sacramento, Cal.

Inclosed please find \$12 for twelve new subscriptions to THE TRIBUNE. Will probably send you another list after the next meeting of George homas Post, No. 9, of this place. - James H. Mills, Deer Lodge, Montana. Inclosed please find \$13 for thirteen new subscrip-

Post, No. 217, Easton, Pa., got a copy of your paper from a friend, and were so well pleased that I had no difficulty in securing this club.—Joseph Ronge, Easton, Pa. Inclosed please find \$13 for thirteen new subscriptions to THE TRIEVE I am fourteen years old, and belong to the drum corps of Appointion

ions to THE TRIBUNE. The boys of La Fayette

Post, of which my father is commander.—Harry W. Thomas, Oakland, Cal. TRIBUNE PREMIUMS, And What Our Club-Raisers Think and Sav

Accept thanks for your promptness in sending the Waterbury watch. I am thoroughly satisfied that it is a No. I watch. I am highly pleased with your fearless and outspoken advocacy of all measres favorable to the soldier's interest, for I know 'in what a forge and what a heat" during that flerce and bloody struggle was molded the peace and prosperity we now enjoy .- G. W. Coffin, Coun-

I would have acknowledged the receipt of watch sooner, but wished to thoroughly test it, which I have done, and can say truly that it is a marvel, indeed—both of accuracy and beauty.—Will H. Pierson, College Corner, O.

The watch arrived in good condition, snugly packed in its little case, and was ready for business as soon as I gave the stem a few turns. I presented rejection of meritorious claims. It is that referred to in the report [No. 860] of Representwith that rail. Kennedy explained the matwith mine (my watch cost \$80), and the Waterbury

as soon as I gave the stem a few turns. I presented it to my boy, who is delighted with it. Every time he sees me through the day he compares his time with mine (my watch cost \$80), and the Waterbury

as soon as I gave the stem a few turns. I presented it to my boy, who is delighted with it. Every time he sees me through the day he compares his time with mine (my watch cost \$80), and the Waterbury

as soon as I gave the stem a few turns. I presented it to my boy, who is delighted with it. Every time he sees me through the day he compares his time with mine (my watch cost \$80), and the Waterbury

keeps right along with it. He says he believes his watch is as good as mine, if mine did cost more.-S. S. Boggs, Survey, Kan.

The Waterbury which I received from you has kept good time. Had it cost tan times as much, it could not have done better. O. F. Beal, Mingral

I have carried the Waterbury watch I had from you for ten months, and find it a good timekesper-equal to any \$25 watch. - G. N. Hopping, Havana,

I am well pleased with the Waterbury watch you tent me. It keeps as good time as any 500 waten.-J. W. Foreman, Ottawa, Kan. The Waterbury watch you sent me is a dalay in ppearance. It keeps good time, too,-E. F. Bar-

OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

m, Sauk Rapids, Minn.

Replies to Cuestions on a Variety of Interesting Sublects.

[To Correspondents.-Write questions on a separms sheet of paper, give full mane and address. and mark it "Correspondents' Column." No attention will be paid to communications that are not accompanied with full name and address of writer. fur renders are requested to inclose a stamp for J. F. E., Danversport, Mass.-We cannot say in

advance of the passage of the bill who will be enthe road and quite a distance in advance of the titled to its benefits. The bill is subject to smendline. The two men that were on this post on ment when it comes up for action, and it is impossible for any person to state in what shape it will pass, if at all; and this remark applies to all the various measures pending before Congress.

J. G. E. Meadeille, Pa -Senstor Edmunds does not lose his right to a vote by reason of being prestiting officer of the Senate. He can vote on any question that comes before the Senate, as under the Constitution of the United States such State is cutified to aco Senators and, therefore, to two N. E. Auburn, Ind.—The following is a copy of

the act referred to: "Be it enacted &c., that see-tion 4 of an act entitled An act making appropriations for the support of the army for the year ing June 30, 1800, he so construed as to entitle to the three months pay proper provided for therein, a l officers of volunceers below the rank of briga-dier-general who were in the service on the third presented and accepted, or who were mustered one at their own request or otherwise honorably discharges from the service after the mistis day of A. E. McK., Kidder, He., asks: 1. When, where, and by whom was the first gun of the rebellion Brown's Body Lies Mould-ring in the Grave,'s fired? Auster, at 6:30 o'clock on Friday morn-

and sung it through. It had no sooner finjshed | ing. April 12, 1861, the first gun was freel upon Fort Sumter by the rebels under General Emuregard. 2, who was the youngest volunteer in the Union army, what State was he from, and what was his age? Answer. This question was discussed in Taxe was the most inspiring music to which I ever | Turacus some time since, and out of the mass of letters published at the time you may be able toform an opinion. 3. What regiment was the first raised after President Lincoln's first call for troops? Anxwer. We are not aware that it has ever been officially decided.

B. B., Okemon, Mich. - Evidence on file in another Department of the Government can be used as evidence in a pension claim. Notify the Pension Office of the character of the evidence, and in what office it is flied.

C. S. E., Algernou, Neb .- A person who proves up or commutes a homestead entry council more from the tract and settle upon other poblic had in the same State or Territory as a pre-emptor.

transferred from one agency to another unless he has taken up his perm ment residence in another known to the pension agent uson whose rolls he is J. L., Northeast, Md. - The Commissioner of Pensions is appointed by the i're-ident. Such appoint-

President can also " put him out" of office. Mrs. D. V. W. Wyoming, Iowa, says: Please tell me, if you can, who was Cain's wife? Answer, A Subscriber, Junction, N. J.-There is nothing to prevent a pansioner honling the office of postmus-ter or any other public office, and the pension is in

no case forfeited by holding such office. The Com-

ment is subject to confirmation by the Senate. The

missioner of Pensions draws his pension for loss of leg, in addition to his salary as Commissioner, L. J., Jr., Nashville, N. V.-1. Andgrannville was abandoned by the rebel troops on the approach of the Union forces, and the prisoners turned loose, Wirz was paroled as a prisoner of war by General and gilt-edge, and shows considerable service. Wilson and subsequently arrested by order of the Comrade Murdock will send the book to any of War Department.

W. K., Delphas, O .- Any soldier who enlisted after April 19, 1801, for three years, served the time of his enlistment and was honorably discharged, having received \$100 bounty only for that service, was entitled to \$100 additional bounty under the act of July 28, 1866. He cannot now apply, as all claims for additional bounty are barred. The law expired June 30, 1880.

Subscriber, White Hall, N. Y.-Ten dollars is all that an attorney can demand or receive for his there are no contracts fried in Pension claim (where there are no contracts fried in Pension Office prior to June 20, 1878, specifying a greater amount out we are of opinion that the claimant can legally reimburse the attorney or any other person for actual expenses incurred in hunting up expense, and other incidental expenses, which are outside of his egitimate duties (services) in the claim. Suppose, for instance, the attorney, or any other person should hire a conveyance and go into the country to secure an afficiavia from a winess, and pay for such conveyance and probably the fee of notary, &c., out of his pocket, we are clearly of opinion

that the claiment should reimburse the party, and it would be legal and proper for the latter to receive it. rade Kramer's company, fifteen were killed in action, twenty-five were wounded, and three died are probably correct in stating that there was a regiment of vocateers from Massachusetts that partheipated in the Mexican war. Our statement in were no regiments from the New England States, formation, and was not intended to convey the ides that there were no volunteers from volunteers from Massachusetts in the Mexican war, and we were under the impression that these were independent companies, not formed into a regiment, hence our statement that there were no regidefeated in the legislature, Mr Caleb Cushing fur-nished the requisite funds from his own means. He went to the war with the regiment as its colonel. The only credit given New England for volinteers in the Mexican war is the 1,007 men above referred to. A reference of the matter to the War Department for information, elicited the following response, signed by the Adjutani-General: "The

pressure of business at this office will not permit he furnishing of information of this nature Winamac, IL-If the widow has the care of the step-children she draws their allowance the same

G. H. D., Fayette City.-The Government promarked in private or village cemeteries. You should write to the Quartermaster-General, U.S. A., Washington, D., C., for further information

R. T. L., Jr., Patienteld, N. H., E. K., Du Queda. Ill.; Nelson, Loyun, Kita. - As shifed in our issue of March 6, 1884, commutation is paid for loss of use as to be practically us less the pensioner is entitled to commutation. He is not entitled thereto if his limb is not entirely disabled. The Surgeon-General, U. S. A., will decide any point involved if the same is submitted to him; we suggest, therefore, that you state your case to him in a letter

A. H. T., Kansus City, Mo.-1. You are entitled to no bounty whatever, the same having been for-felted by your promotion to the rank of commissioned officer. 2. Pension is rated in accordance with the rank at the time the disability originated. If you were a private at that time you are correctly pensioned as such. Your subsequent rank has nothing to do with your pension rating.

G. B. J., Allentown, Pa.-The Harper's Ferry insurrection (John Brown) occurred October 16, 1859, You were very near the date. Old Soldier, Philadelphia, -Soldiers or sailors not actually engaged at the seat of war in Mexico scriptions to THE TRIBUNE. I happened to get a are not entitled to bounty land. No land warrants

are due for services in the war of the rebellion. W. W. McC., Marieopa, Arizona,-The Surgeonenables him to supply mechanical appliances in cases of certain surgical deformities. Write him

for further information. Inquirer, West Tray, N. Y .- 1. It may be that you failed to comply with our rules (see notice at head of this column) and did not give your full name when you wrote us before. We receive many letters signed with initials only, to which we do not reply, because we insist upon knowing who our correspondents are, and besides, we may prefer to reply by mail. We do not discuss questions relating to the standing of attorneys in this column. 2. We have no addresses or names of surgeons of hospitals during the late war. Such information will be supplied by the Surgeon-General, U. S. A., this city, to whom you should address your inquiry. 3. The ho-pital you refer to was probably Harewood General Hospital, and Dr. Reed B. Bonte on, acting assistant surgeon, U. S. A., at Watervilet arsenal, may be able to give you some information in regard to matters men-

ioned, as he was on duty at said hospital during the war. Several Readers. - In order to decide questions relating to bounty it is necessary to state to us the exact dates of all enlistments and discharges, the cause of di-charge in each case, (if for disability, the nature of the disability,) the amount of bounty dready received, and the dates when such bounty

Mrs. L. G., Ripon, Wiz.-It has been decided that widow is not entitled to pension if death of soldier was caused partly by disability for which pen-sioned and partly by a disability contracted after discharge.

The Run-Down Condition of the System, in which weakness, nervous worry and low spirits unhinge one completely, is corrected by Dr. Foster's Restorative, which braces up the muscles, enlivens the mind, and composes the nerves with a power and promptness alto-